

From: Wayne Petersen
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/11/02 4:48am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

January 10, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
US Department of Justice
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

I would like to take a moment to give my views on the settlement reached between Microsoft and the Justice Department in November. At this point, the settlement agreement is the best development and would be good for all litigants and consumers in general.

I, like countless others, have Microsoft stock as a significant part of my retirement savings. The impact of the suit on me personally has been dramatic. The impact on the entire economy is noteworthy, too. In fact, I think one can trace the Clinton recession almost directly to the date of the original judgment.

Despite my belief that this whole case should have never been brought in the first place, I understand Microsoft's desire to wrap this suit up. Now I am hoping that with the federal government's lead and continued support for the settlement, the states that have not joined the settlement (such as Minnesota) will reconsider their position. It would be extremely important for all this legal uncertainty to be put to rest for good. The settlement justly leaves Microsoft intact, while obligating the company to change its anticompetitive practices of software bundling and the way it licensed Windows.

I commend your office and the entire administration on the push to settle this case. It is good for the economy and for the government, who can now utilize scarce resources to programs that are more important in our current political environment.

Sincerely,
Wayne Petersen